Castes and Scheduled Tribes). Sports persons are also granted special increments for achieving excellence in the national and international sports events.

In additional to the above, cash awards are given under the Scheme of Special Awards to winners in International sports events and their coaches. Financial assistance is also provided under schemes for Pension to Meritorious Sports-Persons, Sports Scholarship Scheme, Scheme for assisting promising sports persons and supporting personnel and National Sports Development Funds.

Closure of chemical fertilizer units

† * 545. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received recommendations for closing down some of the chemical fertilizer producing units;

(b) if so, from whom such recommendations have been received;

(c) the units which are proposed to be closed down as per those recommendations; and

(d) what decision has been taken by Government, so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has recommended the winding up of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) on 2.11.2001 and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) on 12.12.2001. Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) has confirmed the winding up recommendation of FCI on 9.4.2002. The appeal against BIFR's recommendation for winding up of HFC is with AAIFR.

In 1995, the Group of Ministers (GoM) has recommended the closure/ hiving off of the non-functional units of Haldia of HFC and Gorakhpur of FCI as they were not found techno-economically viable.

A GoM was set up in June, 2001 to examine the comprehensive rehabilitation/restructuring proposals of the four sick fertilizer public sector

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

undertakings. These recommendations are to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government.

Damage to wild life by toxic chemicals and pesticides

* 546. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toxic chemicals and pesticides are causing severe damages to wild life;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Reports of death of wild birds due to consumption of pesticide and chemically treated seeds have been received from some States of the country. The details of such incidents are given in Statement *(See* below). The measures taken by the Government in this regard are as under:

1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept is being promoted to minimize indiscriminate and injudicious use of chemical pesticides and prevent health hazards to human being, animals and the environment.
2. Twenty-six Central Integrated Pest Management centres have been set up in 22 States and I Union Territory for imparting training to farmers and others in the use of bio-pesticides, organic farming and biological control agents.
3. Farmers have been advised to cover the seeds with soil soon after sowing.
4. Farmers have been advised to cover the seeds with soil soon after sowing.
5. Awareness is generated amongst the villages to report such cases to the nearest veterinary officer.
6. Animal Husbandry Departments have been advised to provide immediate vaterinary care to affected birds.
7. The Forest field staff has been instructed to maintain vigil insensitive areas and monitor the incidences of such nature.